UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/1171
15 October 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 14 OCTOBER 1994 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing to you concerning the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations of 14 September 1994 (A/49/383-S/1994/1052) and, upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to state the following.

The armed conflict on the Prevlaka Peninsula started in September 1991 with the attack of the Croatian paramilitary forces on the garrison of the then Yugoslavia National Army (JNA) located on the peninsula and in the territory of the Republic of Montenegro.

The Army of Yugoslavia withdrew its contingents from the Prevlaka Peninsula in order to enable the realization of the Vance plan. This step was in accordance with the Declaration signed by the Presidents of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia on 30 September 1992 and Security Council resolution 779 (1992) of 7 October 1992. The said Declaration provides for the question of Prevlaka to be resolved through its demilitarization and the deployment of the United Nations observers. The issue of security of the Bay of Boka Kotorska and the Dubrovnik region was to be addressed in future negotiations. By Security Council resolution 779 (1992), the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was authorized to control the agreement on the withdrawal of the heavy weapons from the border area between Croatia and Montenegro.

In the negotiations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Croatia and the United Nations it was agreed that the Army of Yugoslavia would withdraw from Prevlaka until 20 October 1992. The Yugoslav side fulfilled its obligation even before the set deadline as was confirmed by the Secretary-General in his letter to the Security Council.

A comprehensive cease-fire in the border area between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia was also covered by the agreement. The Yugoslav side has fully complied with this agreement whereas the Croatian army and the units of its Ministry of the Interior have caused 70 incidents in the demilitarized zone and 166 incidents in the zone controlled by the Army of

Yugoslavia. Those incidents have been fully documented by the United Nations and European Union observers.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and UNPROFOR totally agree on the interpretation and implementation of all agreements. However, as can be seen from the above, Croatia continues to violate the agreements, causing tensions and provoking incidents. In addition, Croatia does not recognize that the Prevlaka Peninsula enjoys the status of the United Nations protected so-called "blue zone" and treats it as its own territory. For example, the Croatian Ministry of the Interior blocked the roads from the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the "blue zone". The Croatian citizens and police have an unimpeded access to it and to the facilities of the Army of Yugoslavia in defiance of the United Nations observers' presence in the area. Furthermore, Croatia has built more than 60 military objects for offensive purposes in the demilitarized zone.

On the other hand, the United Nations observers are given full access and freedom of movement in the so-called "yellow zone", controlled by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. They have had no complaints concerning the fulfilment of Yugoslavia's commitments arising from this agreement.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that the problem of the Prevlaka Peninsula, as a highly sensitive strategic issue, should be resolved through political negotiations in the context of other problems in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. In Yugoslavia's view, the recent visit of the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia to the Prevlaka Peninsula should contribute to that goal. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia again stresses that it has no territorial claims towards any neighbour country, including the Republic of Croatia. However, in view of the delicate nature of the territory of Prevlaka and its strategic relevance, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is interested in having this problem resolved by peaceful means in full compliance with the international norms.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.